

# DIY Project Instructions

## Memory Albums:



### Supplies:

Cover - 12" x 12"  
(Single or double sided cardstock)

Inside Cover - 12" x 12"  
(must be double sided cardstock)

Inside Pages - 12" x 12"  
(single sided - white back)

4 1/2" x 6 1/2" photo mats  
(cardstock)

8 1/2" x 11"  
(white cardstock)

Brads (and/or embellishments)

Ribbon  
(grosgrain or double satin is best)

Scrapbook tape 3/16" or adhesive of choice

Scraps for title plate on cover

#### 10 year Anniversary

1

1

5

12

1

4

50 inches

1 roll

Yes

#### 50 year Anniversary

1

1

10

22

1

4

54 inches (4 1/2 feet)

1 roll

Yes

#### Baby's First Year

1

1

6

14

1

4

50 inches

1 roll

Yes

### Tools:

Printer

Xacto knife

Self healing cutting mat

Paper slicer

Craft needle (large eye & dull point)

Drill, paper drill, or rotary tool

Scissors

Photo corner punch (different styles available)



Photo corner punch  
'Fern' design

Example of photo corner punch 'Trumpet Flower' design

## Assemble your materials:

When making these books, choose the heaviest papers you can find that will still go through your printer. Inkjet printers seem to be the most flexible with heavier papers. Scrapbook stores are prevalent in every community and have the best selection of decorative cardstock. It's important to be able to see both sides of the paper and feel the weight of the paper. Some one sided papers have grid lines and manufacturer information on them, which won't work for this project. If the details written on the white side are within a 1.5" border, then it can be used as the binding will cover this area. I personally like the DCWV Luxury Stacks because they are the heaviest 12" x 12" printed papers and have very creative designs.

Select papers that fit a similar style and colour scheme. Remember each 12" x 12" sheet is cut in half. I like to repeat papers a few times and choose a cover that coordinates. The first page has to be double sided, but you only use one half of it, so keep the other half to make another or use for the scrap required for the title placard. When choosing 4 ½ x 6 ½ photo mats, you can either cut your own or buy them pre-cut. I like to choose solid colours for these so they show off the photo corner punch designs well and don't conflict with the background print. White will always coordinate if you can't find anything more suitable because the opposite page is white. You can make every mat different or use the same on each page. I usually use a colour on the first page to contrast the poem I put there.

## Design:

To create the page designs, you can either make them yourself in a word processing or design program or purchase the 'DIY Wedding Resource' designs online for a very nominal fee. To create them yourself you can either design them for 12" x 12" paper or if your printer is not wide format, design them 6"x 12" and precut your papers before printing.

## Printing:

After you've selected your papers print your pages. Be sure to read ALL the following tips to ensure success and limit waste.

Be sure paper is facing correctly to print the white side. If you're not sure, write on a blank 'scrap' paper 'top' at the top, 'bottom' at the bottom and 'back' on the reverse. Print 'test' on the page. Once it's gone through the printer, you'll be able to determine how your particular printer prints.

- If your paper has a pattern with numbers or letters, be sure to line it up correctly. You don't want the words to be upside down. It'd be distracting.
- If it's a linear pattern, I like to line it up vertically because the book shape is horizontal.
- If your paper has manufacturer details on the back make sure it is going to appear on the left of your text. That way it will be hidden by the binding.
- Inkjet printers are best for printing heavy cardstock and papers with glitter. Lasers heat up and glitter may ruin your printer.

Cut papers to 6" high. Be as accurate as possible so the book lines up evenly. You may have to 'shave' a millimeter here or there if it's not exact.

## Binding:

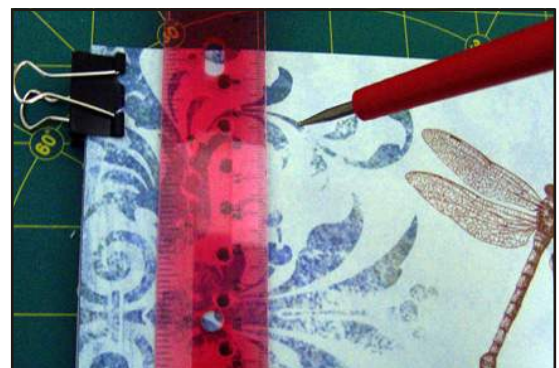
Assemble your pages in order. Cover, 1<sup>st</sup> page (double sided blank page), printed pages in sequence, back cover.

Make sure all edges are even. You may have to trim a couple pages. I like to tap the top edge and right side edge on a flat surface and then use binding clips to keep in place.

Score front cover 2" from left edge to ensure clean fold. May score all pages if desired.

Double check pages are in order and facing the right way.

Use binding clips to hold pages together and fix drill template on book.



Score front cover 2" from left edge

**To make a drill template:** Cut a strip of cardstock 2" x 6" and draw a vertical line at 1.5" lengthwise. Mark down each side every 1/2". Line up a ruler at each 1/2" interval and make a dot where it intersects the line at 1 1/2". You should have 11 dots where you need to drill holes.

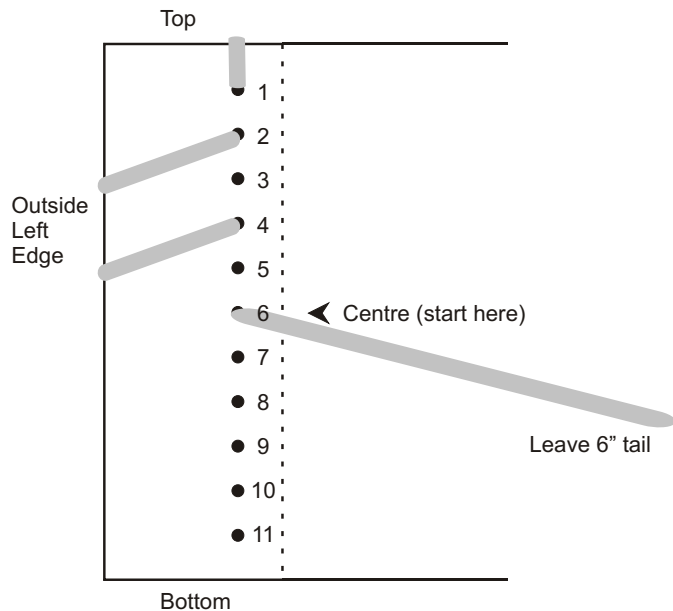
Make sure template is placed with drill marks 1 1/2" from left of book.

Use either a rotary tool with a drill bit or standard drill. Choose a drill bit that will be big enough to fit the ribbon through that you choose.

Hand 'paper drills' cut a cleaner hole. However, I haven't found one yet that can drill through all the pages at once. They have to be cleaned out half way through each hole as well which slows the process down. You could just drill the inside pages and use paper drill on the cover to have cleaner holes.

After drilling, remove the template but leave the alligator clips in place. You may want to sand down the back of your book where the paper has been drilled and protrudes a bit around the edges. You may need to sand the front too, although not as much.

Thread ribbon on your craft needle. Start by pulling needle from front of book at hole #7 (see drawing) down to back of book. Leave a 6" tail. Wrap ribbon around the outside edge back and over to the front of the book and down again through hole #4 (skipping #5). Wrap around the outside edge back and over to the front again and down hole #2. This time wrap the ribbon around the top of the book and down hole #1. Wrap around outside edge to the front and down hole #3. Wrap around outside edge back and over to the front and down hole #5.



This time don't wrap around the book, but stay on the back of the book and come up through hole #7. You will now be threading the needle up from back to front. Wrap around to the back and up hole #9. Repeat around and up hole #11. This time don't wrap around the side, but over the bottom and up hole #10. Wrap around to the back and up hole #8. The final wrap is around to the back and up the centre #6 hole which has the start of the ribbon already through it. Pull tight and tie a bow. Trim ends on an angle.



Affix template and drill holes at cross sections



Sand down front and back cover if required



Thread and wrap ribbon as shown on drawing



This is how the ribbon will appear on the back. See front page of instructions for example of front finished.

**TIP:** Be sure to untwist ribbon as you thread it through the holes to ensure it lies flat. You may need to slide it back and forth a few times as you untwist.

## Make title plate:

Print title name on white (or light coloured) cardstock. Cut to desired size. Cut scrap cardstock that complements book design. You can use the same colour as the ribbon or pull another colour from the cover design. Choose 4 brads you like to add depth and texture. These are optional and you can modify the embellishments to your hearts desire. Let your creative juices flow.

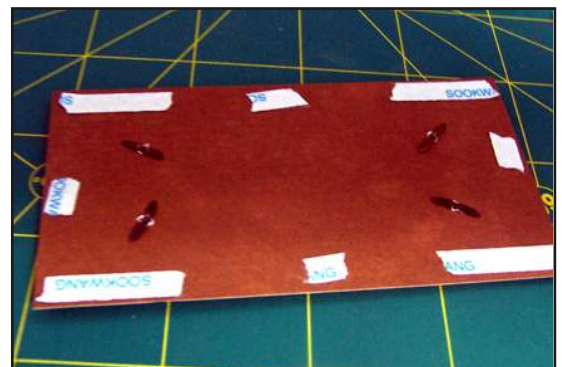
Adhere nameplate to background cardstock. Cut slits with and xacto knife where you want your brads to be. Add adhesive or double sided tape to back and place on your memory album cover.



Cut and assemble title plate



Cut slits to attach brads or add other embellishments



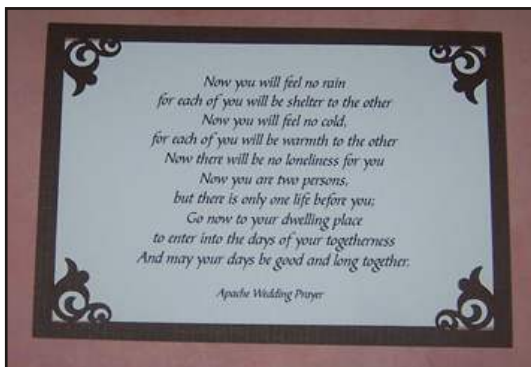
Use adhesive to stick title plate to front cover



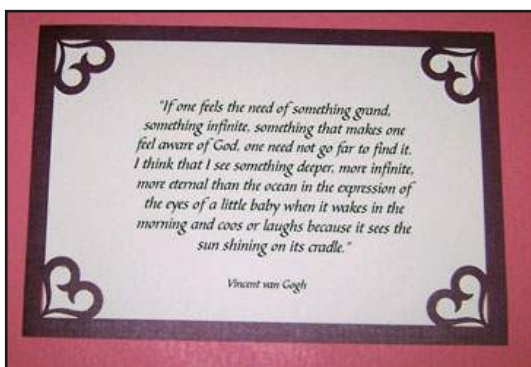
## Photo Frames: (Optional)

If you don't want to have to glue photos in your memory album, buy pre-cut or cut your own cardstock to 4 1/2" x 6 1/2" for the photo frames inside. Use a photo corner punch to make decorative slots for the 4" x 6" photos to go. Corner punches are available at most craft and scrapbook stores. If using an asymmetrical design like the 'Trumpet Flower', be sure to flip the card each time you punch so the design mirrors itself. Also, lift the two designs that have been reverse punched up so that it will be easy to slide a photo in.

Use your adhesive of choice on the back to place frames in book. Try to centre them and lay them straight. The thin double sided tape makes for the least bulk added to your creation.



Samples of 'Trumpet Flower' and 'Heart' corner punches



## Congratulations!

You've made your very own custom memory album.